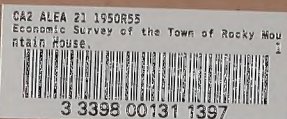


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ECONOMIC SURVEY

OF THE
TOWN OF

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE

Rocky Mtn House

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BRANCH

Industry
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

HON. A. J. HOOKE
MINISTER

RALPH R. MOORE
DEPUTY MINISTER

ECONOMIC SURVEY
TOWN OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE
by
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BRANCH
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

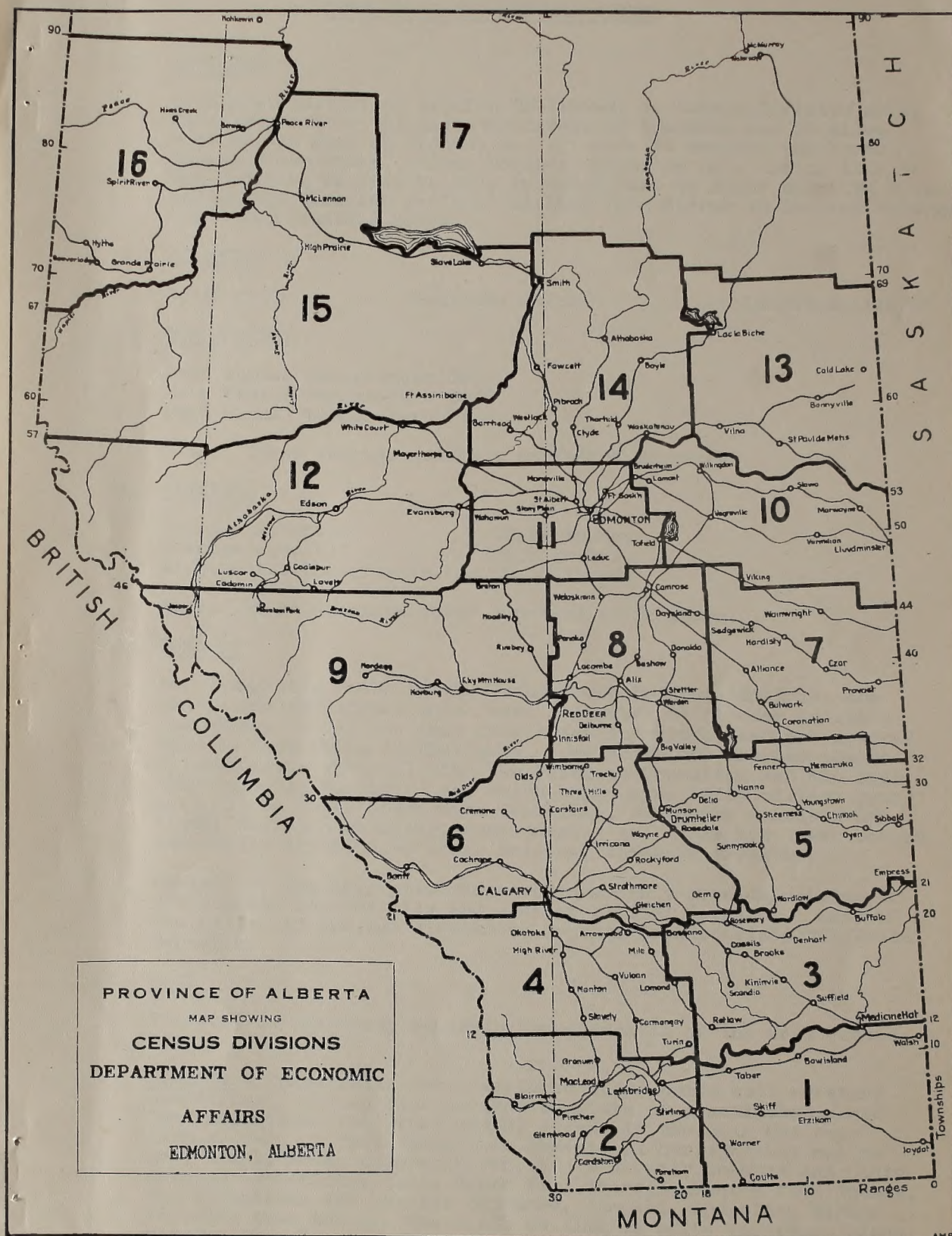
This survey was compiled with the assistance of Town officials, Board of Trade and local residents who were familiar with the town's history.

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MAY 1950

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TOWN OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE

1. LOCATION

Northeast quarter of section 22-39-7-W5 in Census Division No. 9. This location is 151 miles southwest of Edmonton and 53 miles west of Red Deer on Highway No. 11 where it crosses the North Saskatchewan River. Rocky Mountain House is on a branch line of the Canadian Pacific Railway from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House and on the Canadian National Railway from Mirror to Brazeau (Nordegg) via Rocky Mountain House.

2. ALTITUDE

3,180 feet

Latitude 52/21

Longitude 114/58

3. TEMPERATURE

Mean summer temperature 52°F

Mean winter temperature 20°F

Mean annual temperature 34°F

Note: These averages cover a period of 22 years.

4. RAINFALL

Average rainfall 13.56 inches

Average snowfall 55.7 inches

Average total precipitation 19.13 inches

Note: These averages cover a period of 22 years.

5. GEOLOGY

The underlying rocks in the Rocky Mountain House district are shales and sandstones which were deposited by streams in lakes and deltas. They are thus freshwater in origin, and are several hundred feet thick in that area. The rocks are grouped together by geologists who call them the Paskapoo formation and who give them an early Tertiary Age, which began some fifty million years ago. Since these rocks were deposited, the North American Continent has been uplifted, consequently the rocks have been eroded and only a fraction of their original thickness remains.

During the Ice Age, glaciers moved over this area depositing on the surface boulder clay and similar glacial deposits. Many of the hills and smaller elevations in this area consists of glacial deposits.

6. SOIL

The soil in the Rocky Mountain House area is of the Gray Wooded type.

Profile - These soils have developed under humid soil moisture conditions. The surface horizon consists of a semi-decomposed leaf mold layer (A0) that may be absent if the area has been burned over; a thin (sometimes absent) A1 horizon that may be gray black, brown or gray brown, and a severely leached and platy grayish A2 horizon, whose depth will average about 6 to 8 inches. The B horizons are heavier textured, compact, and often darker in color than the A. The depth to lime is quite variable, often ranging from 30 to 50 inches.

Fertility - Soils in this zone are relatively less fertile because of leaching; the deeper the leached layer, the less fertile. However, patches of transition soils are found within the zone.

Vegetation - A mixed deciduous and evergreen woodland in which peats and muskegs frequently occur.

Land Use - This is a mixed farming area in which legumes, hays and coarse grains are the most desirable crops. Rotations including legumes, and supplemented with fertilizers where needed, have given the most satisfactory results.

7. HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

The town of Rocky Mountain House was given its name by the North West Co. which opened a post at this site in 1799.

The first white man known to have reached the site of Rocky Mountain House was Peter Pangman, a partner of Alexander MacKenzie. This was in the year 1790. He engraved his name on a large tree overhanging the river. This tree was about three miles from the present town site.

At that time, Stony Indians occupied that territory. A band of Kootenai Indians occasionally visited them to trade furs, etc. for ponies.

David Thompson, born in London, England, in the year 1770, travelled at the age of 27 from Manchester House to visit the Blackfoot Indians who occupied that part of the province which lies in the vicinity of the Bow, Elbow and Red Deer Rivers. Thompson spent the winter near the confluence of the Bow and Elbow Rivers with an old Indian Chief named Sanganapee or Saukamappee (meaning young man). In 1798 he married Charlotte Small at Isle 'a La Crosse, northwest of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

It was in 1801 that Thompson accompanied by his young wife established a trading post at the confluence of the Clearwater and North Saskatchewan Rivers. He called the post "Rocky Mountain House" because of its view of the Rocky Mountains to the west, the "House" being added because it was customary for the Fur Trading Company to refer to their posts as "Houses".

In 1800 the North West Company sent John McDonald (Bras Crocke McDonald of Garth)-French version, to build a fort and trading post a short distance up-stream from the confluence of the North Saskatchewan and Clearwater Rivers, on the west side of the North Saskatchewan about three miles down-stream from Pangman's tree. David Thompson occasionally called it "Clearwater House" because of its proximity to the Clearwater River. John McDonald called it "Garth" after his home town in Scotland. The post was completed in 1802 and David Thompson left in charge; he used it for his headquarters and point of departure for various journeys he made during his explorations.

Rocky Mountain House was for over seventy years the most westerly post in the Blackfoot country and remained in operation until 1875. This post had a checker-board existence. It was burned by the Blackfoot tribe in 1819 and rebuilt by the Hudson's Bay Company that summer, the same plan being followed, only on a larger scale. In 1832 it was abandoned and a new post built on the Bow River. This post did not prove very popular and in 1834 the Rocky Mountain House post was reopened and continued until the fall of 1837 when it was again burned by the Indians. It was rebuilt in 1838-39.

In 1859 a river boat was completed by a group of Scottish ship-builders and their helpers who labored over it for three years. Wooden pegs were used for nails, and all the lumber was hewn by hand. This boat plied the North Saskatchewan River between Rocky Mountain House and Edmonton for a good many years.

In 1860 a terrible epidemic of red measles swept through Indian tribes around Rocky, and as they had no resistance to the white man's disease, whole tribes were wiped out. One Blackfoot boy who was nursed through his illness at the post, repaid the kindness some time later by warning the factor when the Blackfoot tribe planned to murder the whites at the Fort and burn the post.

The district of Rocky Mountain House was not surveyed for settlement until 1906. Henry Bertrand took out a homestead the next year and on this homestead the present town was built in 1912.

In 1912 the Canadian Northern Railway reached Rocky, and in 1914 the Alberta Central Railway arrived - this railway was later taken over by the Canadian Pacific Railway.

With the coming of the railways and the discovery of immense coal deposits to the West, settlement was steady. The village suffered a bad set-back in 1922 when it was almost totally destroyed by fire, and again in 1927 when 90% of the business section of the village was demolished by a cyclone. On both occasions new and more substantial buildings were erected.

Rocky Mountain House was erected a village May 15, 1913 and incorporated as a town August 16, 1939. That same year a much needed hospital was built at Rocky by the Mission Board of the Presbyterian Church, the town and district contributing the sum of \$4,000 towards the project.

Although farming is carried on successfully in the district, lumbering has always been, and will be for many years to come the chief industry. Big game hunting in the Rocky district attracts hunters from all over Canada and the United States. Clarence Sands is the oldest outfitter and guide in the district. He started guiding in 1904.

The first town mayor was William Teskey, and the first councillors were W. H. Schierholtz and J. A. McLean. The first secretary-treasurer was Mrs. S. A. Durnford. Old-timers are Charlie Bruce, W. Kirby, C. Sands, L. Smith and Henry Stelfox.

The first doctor in Rocky Mountain House was Dr. Miller.

The last tribe of Non-treaty Indians, members of the O'Chiese band of Chippewas, signed a treaty in May 1950. This band will have their reservation west of town. Mr. Stelfox was chief investigator of the settlement treaty.

Beavers are returning to the Rocky Mountain House district. There are more than 1,000 beaver dams, and the meadow land is again under water. When the beavers were absent from the district, more than 400 million feet of lumber was lost by fire; but during the last twelve years not more than three acres of timber was lost by fire in any one year. This conservation of timber is attributed to the return of the beavers. If beavers are found in agricultural districts they are trapped and transported to forest reserves.

8. LIVING CONDITIONS

Rocky Mountain House is a railway, educational and hospital centre. It is also the centre of the district's lumber and mixed farming industry, and the headquarters of the forestry service for the Clearwater division of the eastern Rockies forest reserves.

Educational facilities are provided for grades 1 to 12 inclusive.

There are more than 400 houses within the town limits.

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>
Number of new buildings erected	<u>33</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>31</u>
Value	\$73,740	\$28,250	\$46,293

About 90% of the homes are owner-occupied. Rents run about \$25 per month for a five-room cottage.

Crimson Lake, 9 miles west of the town provides boating and swimming facilities.

Rocky Mountain House is the gateway to a large big game hunting area which provides hunters from all over the American Continent with moose, deer, elk, bear, big-horn sheep and mountain goats. There are several species of upland game birds, ducks and geese, and the local streams and lakes are well stocked with several species of trout. This district is also well known for its variety and abundance of wild berries - especially raspberries and blueberries.

9. ADMINISTRATION

The town is governed by a Council consisting of a mayor elected for a two year term and six councillors, two elected each year for a three year term.

The town secretary carries out the policy set by the council.

10. LAW ENFORCEMENT

The town has its own police department and includes one chief and one constable.

The local Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment with one corporal, administers Federal and Provincial law-enforcement.

There is one resident police magistrate.

Regulations

All new buildings, repairs to buildings and removal of buildings must be approved by the council.

There are zoning by-laws and a building code enforced by the council.

All electrical installations must conform to the Alberta Electrical Protection Act.

All sanitary installations must conform to the Provincial Health Regulations.

11. FIRE PROTECTION

The town fire brigade consists of a part time fire chief and 18 volunteer firemen. These firemen are paid for fighting fires and attending practices.

A new G.M.C. fire truck has just been purchased. It is equipped with a 500 imperial gallon tank with a Hickox booster pump, 200 feet of $\frac{3}{4}$ " hose, 200 feet of $1\frac{1}{2}$ " hose, fire extinguishers, ladders, door openers, crowbars, fog nozzles, and first aid equipment.

The forest ranger headquarters located in the town have 37,000 feet of $1\frac{1}{2}$ " hose, 18 gasoline engine driven pumps, several trucks and a staff of 13 rangers.

12. TAX STRUCTURE

	1949 Net Assessment
Land 100% of value	\$ 49,646
Improvement 100% of value	638,770
Power	24,200
Business	36,885
Total	\$749,501

Mill Rate	Municipal	Hospital	Total
<u>School</u>			
40	11.5	8.5	60 mills

13. AREAS

Area of town	260 acres
Streets and roads	40 acres
Parks	11 acres

Miles of Roads, Streets and Lanes	Paved	Gravel	Unpaved	Unopened	Total
Provincial main		1			1
Streets and roads		4.6	3.5	.75	8.85
Lanes and alleys		1	.5		1.5
				Total	11.35

There are 1.5 miles of cement sidewalks and one mile of board sidewalks.

14. SEWER AND WATER MAIN MILEAGE

These are being installed this year

15. POWER

Three phase 60 cycle power is supplied under a ten year franchise by the Calgary Power.

Rates

Domestic Service

Available only for lighting, heating, cooking, domestic power and ordinary uses in private houses and apartments used exclusively for residential purposes.

First 20 KWH's (or less) per month.....\$2.70 gross minimum
Subject to 30% prompt payment discount, making \$2.40 net minimum
All over 20 KWH's used per month..... .01 net per KWH
Note: Discount of 30% applies on all bills paid within discount period.

The foregoing rate applies where the maximum demand does not exceed 5 Kilowatt. Where the demand exceeds 5 Kilowatt, an additional monthly demand charge of 50¢ per Kilowatt will be made.

Connection Charge for new consumers \$1.00

Reconnection Charge \$4.80

Commercial Service

Available where other rates listed do not apply.

Service Charge

First 500 watts of installed capacity.....40¢ per month

Each additional 250 watts of installed capacity 10¢ per month

Energy Charge

First 50 KWH's per month per KW of installation 10¢ per KWH

Next 150 KWH's per month per KW of installation 5¢ per KWH

All over 200 KWH's per month per KW of installation 2½¢ per KWH

Discount of 10% if paid within discount period - based on the even dollars only of total bill with a minimum discount of 30¢.

Minimum Charge \$1.80 gross; \$1.50 net per month

Minimum Deposit \$3.60

Reconnection Charge \$3.00

Power Service

(A.C) available for motors, rectifiers, commercial heating apparatus, etc., in commercial establishments.

Service Charge

\$1.00 per month per Kilovolt-ampere (KVA) of installation (one motor horsepower or one Kilowatt in heating apparatus to be considered equivalent to 1 KVA).

Energy Charge

First 50 KWH's per month per KVA of installation 5¢ per KWH

Next 50 KWH's per month per KVA of installation 3½¢ per KWH

Over 100 KWH's per month per KVA of installation 1 2/3¢ per KWH

Discount

10%, if paid within discount period - based on the even dollars only of total bill, with a minimum discount of 30¢

Minimum Charge \$3.30 gross; \$3.00 net, per month

Minimum Deposit \$2.00 per HP with a minimum of \$6.00

Reconnection Charge \$6.00

16. WATER

Water is obtained from local wells and the North Saskatchewan river. A number of homes are connected to one well and have their own water supply in their homes.

Analysis

	<u>Parts per Million</u>
Color	5
Turbidity	nil
Ph	8.0
<u>Solids</u>	
Suspended	0
Dissolved	516
Organic	36
Mineral	480
Silica (SiO2)	
Iron (Fe)	0.5
Calcium (Ca)	100
Magnesium (Mg)	27
Sodium (Na)	46
Bicarbonate (HCO3)	445
Carbonate	trace
Sulphate (SO4)	62
Chloride (Cl)	25
Nitrate (NO3)	0
Alkalinity	365
Total Hardness	365 - 25.5 grains per gallon
Carbonate hardness	365
Non-carbonate hardness	0
<u>Hypothetical Combinations</u>	
Calcium Carbonate	250
Magnesium Carbonate	97
Sodium Sulphate	92
Sodium Chloride	41
Organic Matter	36

17. GAS

Not installed

18. L. P. GAS

No agent in town

19. DIESEL FUEL

Calorific value 135,000 to 140,000 b.t.u. per gallon at 60°F
Summer grade 18.7¢ per gallon plus 1¢ tax
Winter grade 20.2¢ per gallon plus 1¢ tax
Stove oil 19.3¢ per gallon plus 1¢ tax

20. COAL

Coal is secured from the Drumheller and Saunders fields.

	<u>Stoker</u>	<u>Nut</u>	<u>Lump</u>
Drumheller	\$9.65	\$9.95	\$12.95
Saunders	\$11.00	\$12.00	\$14.00

21. LOCAL RESOURCES

Clay for bricks and pottery
Lumber
Straw
Cereals
Dairy products - milk, cream, butter, etc.
Poultry, eggs
Horses, cattle, sheep and hogs
Honey
Sand
Gravel
Furs

22. GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND SERVICES

Federal
Post office
Veteran's Land Act
Indian Agent
Royal Canadian Mounted Police - 1 corporal
Meteorological Station

Provincial
Court House
Resident Police Magistrate
Treasury Branch
Telephone office
Liquor store
District Superintendent of Schools
Divisional School District No. 15 office
Timber Inspector
Forest Branch
Rangers
Game Inspector

Municipal
Town Hall housing
Town Secretary
Committee Room
Police Department
Fire Hall
I.O.D.E. Library
Garbage collected

23. HEALTH SERVICES

Rocky Mountain House Municipal Hospital No. 49 has an official capacity of 22 beds and 6 bassinets. The staff consists of one matron, three nurses and three nurses aides. A sun parlor the width of the hospital is available for convalescent patients.

Rates

	<u>Ratepayers</u>	<u>Non-ratepayers</u>
Public Ward	\$1.00	\$4.75
Semi-private (3)	1.50	5.50
Private (1)	2.50	6.50

In addition there are:

- 2 private practising physicians
- 1 dentist
- 1 resident physiotherapist
- 2 drug stores

24. PROFESSIONAL AND SKILLED PERSONAL SERVICES
(excluding health services)

Barristers and Lawyers	1 calling weekly
Beauty Parlors	1
Watch Repairing	2
Barber Shops	2
Optometrists	1 calling weekly
Public Accountants	3

25. TRANSPORTATION

Canadian Pacific Railway - Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House
 Canadian National Railway - Mirror to Nordegg via Rocky Mountain House
 Sorenson Bus Line - Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House
 Taxi service - 2 stands, 3 cabs
 Daily truck service to and from Edmonton and Calgary

26. NEWSPAPERS

The Mountaineer - weekly - circulation 510

27. COMMUNICATIONS

Canadian Pacific Telegraph
 Canadian National Telegraph
 Alberta Government Telephones
 Forestry Service Radio Station
 Post office
 Air mail through post office
 Nearest public radio station Red Deer CKRD

28. FINANCIAL FACILITIES

Imperial Bank of Canada
 Treasury Branch

29. HOTELS

	<u>No. of Rooms</u>	<u>Rates</u>	<u>Beer License</u>
Mount View	22	\$1.25 up	yes
David Thompson	21	\$1.25 up	yes

30. TOURIST CAMPS

	<u>No. of Units</u>	<u>Rates</u>
C Griffin	7	\$2.50 up

31. CHURCHES

Roman Catholic
Anglican
Presbyterian
Nazarene

32. LODGES

Masonic
L.O.B.A.
I.O.O.F.

33. SERVICE CLUBS

Kinsmen
Board of Trade
Canadian Legion
Women's Auxiliary Canadian Legion
I.O.D.E. MacDonald of Garth Chapter
Women's Church Groups
Women's Institute

34. SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Agricultural Society
Red Cross Society
Old Timers' Association
Fish and Game Association
Parent Teachers Association
Alberta Teachers Association

35. SCHOOLS

The town schools are part of Rocky Mountain House school division No. 15. There are two school buildings with a total of 14 classrooms, 14 teachers and 415 students who are taught grades 1 - 12 inclusive, with the following optional subjects: Typewriting, Bookkeeping, Stenography, Art, Music and Drama.

Two school vans provide transportation for children in the adjacent rural district.

36. THEATRES AND HALLS

	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Piano</u>
Roxy	250	yes	yes
Legion Hall (not for public use)	300	no	yes
Oddfellows	100	yes	yes
Community Hall	200	yes	no
Kinsmen	100	yes	yes
Women's Institute	100	no	no

37. CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Public library with part time librarian in charge is under the direction of the I.O.D.E. The library is supported by the town, provincial grant under the Libraries Act and members fees. The library is open Saturdays from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m.

Drama Club
2 local orchestras - one 3 and one 4 piece
Boys band with 20 instruments
Girls choir

38. YOUTH ACTIVITIES

<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
Boy Scouts	Girl Guides
Wolf Cubs	C.G.I.T.
Army Cadets	
Calf Club	

39. SPORTS

Baseball - Junior and Senior
Hockey - Junior and Senior
Softball
Badminton
Football
Tennis
Bowling
Curling

Covered curling rink with 4 sheets of natural ice
Open air hockey and skating rink

Efforts are now being made to have the skating rink enclosed.

40. FAIRS

Annual sports day

41. HISTORIC SITES

Cairn on site of old fort. Chimneys have been rebuilt with original stones.

42. CO-OPERATIVES

Central Alberta Dairy Pool
Central Alberta Livestock Shipping Association
Co-op General Store
Rocky Mountain House Credit Union

43. INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS

<u>Type of Industry or Business</u>	<u>No. of Estab- lishments</u>	<u>Producer or Manufacturer</u>	<u>Whole- sale</u>	<u>Re- tail</u>
Bakeries	1	.....	1	1
Banks	2	.....	.....	.....
Barbers	2	.....	.....	.....
Bowling Alleys	1	.....	.....	.....
Butchers	2	.....	2	2
Building Contractors	3	.....	.....	.....
Blacksmith Shop	1	.....	.....	1
Cartage Delivery	3	.....	.....	.....
Clothing (Men's)	2	.....	.....	2
Clothing (Women's)	2	.....	.....	2
Concrete Works	1	.....	.....	.....
Coal Dealers	3	.....	.....	3
Cold Storage Lockers	1	.....	1	1
Creameries	1	1	1	1

43 continued

Type of Industry or Business	No. of Establishments	Producer or Manufacturer	Whole-sale	Re-tail
Dentists	1	.....	.....	....
Department Stores	3	.....	.....	3
Doctors M.D.	2	.....	.....	....
Drugs	2	.....	.....	2
Egg Grading Stations	1	.....	1	1
Electrical Appliances	2	.....	.....	2
Electrical Contractors	1	.....	.....	....
Funeral Parlors	1	.....	.....	....
Feed Mill	1	.....	1	1
Garages and Service Stations	5	.....	.....	5
Grain Elevators	1	Total capacity 50,000 bushels	.....	.....
Groceries	1	.....	.....	1
Hair Dressers	1	.....	.....	....
Hardware	2	.....	.....	2
Hotels	2	.....	.....	....
Harness Maker	1	1	1	1
Implements	2	.....	.....	2
Insurance Office	4	.....	.....	....
Jewellers	2	.....	.....	2
Law Offices	1	calling weekly	.....	.....
Laundry (dry cleaners)	2	.....	.....	2
Lumber Yards	2	.....	2	2
Lumber Mills	2	2	2	....
Milk Distributors	1	.....	1	1
Oil Distributors	2	.....	2	2
Outfitters and Guides	10	.....	.....	....
Painters and Decorators	1	.....	.....	....
Photographers	1	.....	.....	1
Plumbers	1	.....	.....	1
Pool Rooms	1	.....	.....	....
Printing Shops	1	.....	.....	1
Public Accountant	3	.....	.....	....
Radio Repair	2	.....	.....	2
Restaurants	5	.....	.....	5
Shoe Repair	1	.....	.....	1
Sporting Goods	See Hardware	.....	.....	.....
Tailor Shops	1	.....	.....	1
Theatres	1	.....	.....	....
Tinsmiths	1	.....	.....	1
Variety Stores	1	.....	.....	1
Welding and Machine Shops	2	.....	.....	2
Woodworking	2	2	2	2

44. SITES

Residential and industrial sites are available which can be served with electric light and power. The industrial sites are adjacent to the highway and can be served by both railways.

45. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The first industry to be established was wild furs, and later the lumber industry was developed. There are now numerous portable sawmills in the district that deliver lumber to the two planing mills located in the town. During 1949 the railways shipped 20,800,000 f.b.m. of finished lumber, 150,000 railway ties and 2,000 box-car loads of mine timbers. There is no available information showing the amount of lumber and mine timbers shipped by trucks.

A thriving creamery handles considerable amounts of milk and produces a large amount of butter. A 50,000 bushel grain elevator serves the farmers with grain storage and handles facilities.

46. TRADING AREA

On the north to Alder Flats
On the west to Jack Fish Lake
On the south to Caroline
On the east to Leslieville

47. POPULATION

Trading area population 3304 1946 census
Town population 1017 1946 census
Town population at end of 1949 1100 estimated

48. INTERESTING VIEWS OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE AND DISTRICT

